

Serial No. 09/664,479

Art Unit No. 2618

REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 9-15 were pending in the patent application. The Examiner has finally rejected Claims 1-2 and 9-15 under 35 USC 102 as anticipated by the Tate patent. For the reasons set forth below, Applicant believes that the claims as amended are patentable over the cited art and respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection.

The present application teaches and claims a network node device for automatically, dynamically, and selectively connecting one or more telephone wirelines to one or more wireless connections, with the aim of providing dynamic selective bridging of both incoming and outgoing calls to and from wireless devices based on unique identifying information, including privacy policies associated with the wireless devices to which the wireless connections are being made. The invention comprises steps and means for performing the steps, by a network node comprising one or more connections to one or more telephone wirelines; one or more wireless signal generators supporting one or more wireless connections; at least one storage location for storing unique service information comprising service

Serial No. 09/664,479

Art Unit No. 2618

available for each of a plurality of wireless devices; a processor for accessing the storage location and for generating call processing signals based on the stored unique information; an interconnection switch that makes and breaks one or more interconnections between the telephone wirelines and the respective wireless signal generators to connect multiple co-pending incoming calls to more than one of the plurality of wireless devices in response to the call processing signals; and a bridge that dynamically bridges signals from multiple wireless connections to more than one of the telephone wirelines for outgoing calls from one or more of the wireless devices in response to call processing signals generated by the processor based on stored unique information (Claims 1 and 14).

The network node device may further include a verifier that verifies the validity of a request from a wireless device through a wireless connection for the bridging of signals (Claim 2), and may further be adapted to dynamically and selectively connect signals from wireless devices based on both unique identifier and unique service information (Claims 9 and 10), and the device may be adapted to alter the connection of signals dynamically, during use after a

Serial No. 09/664,479

Art Unit No. 2618

wireless connection has already been made (Claims 11, 13 and 15) or may deny bridging (Claim 12).

Under the present invention, while multiple devices may share a telephone number, and the associated single wireline, the inventive network node and method allows selective connection across the different devices based on the unique information associated with each specific device, such that multiple co-pending incoming calls to a single telephone number and/or outgoing calls can be connected between multiple different wireless devices and the wirelines even when the wireless devices share the same telephone number. Applicant has amended the language of the independent claims to expressly recite that the service information is information regarding service available to each device, as taught by the Specification, for example on page 12, lines 4-6, page 12, line 18 and page 14, lines 17-19. Applicant has also amended the independent claims to recite that the invention connects multiple co-pending incoming calls to the same single telephoen number, as expressly taught in the Specification, for example at page 5, lines 14-15, page 6, lines 15-16 and page 7, lines 6-8.

Serial No. 09/664,479

Art Unit No. 2618

The Examiner has rejected all of the pending claims as anticipated by the Tate patent teachings. The Tate patent is directed to an interconnection control method to connect a single incoming call to one or a group of telephone sets in a cordless telephone system having a connection unit connected to a subscriber line and a plurality of radio telephone sets connected through a radio communication circuit to the connection unit. Under Tate, each of the radio telephone sets transmits a calling signal containing group identification code and individual identification information. The connection unit returns an answer calling signal when the received group identification code coincides with predetermined information and establishes a speech channel between the connection unit and the other party telephone set or sets. If the group identification code indicates that the single incoming call is for a group of telephone sets, then the call is routed to the group of telephone sets. If the group identification code indicates that the single incoming call is for only one telephone set, then the call is routed only to the one telephone set.

Applicant asserts that the Examiner has erred in rejecting the claim language as anticipated by Tate. With

Serial No. 09/664,479

Art Unit No. 2618

regard to the steps and means for storing unique service information, the Examiner has newly stated, in the **Response** section of the Final Office Action, that the Tate "individual identification codes unique to the respective radio telephone sets" corresponds to the claims "unique service information". Applicant respectfully disagrees. The claimed service information refers to the authorization of a handset/device to receive a service (see: page 12, lines 4-6). The unique service information comprises information about what service is available to that handset/device. In contrast, the Tate identification codes are unique identifiers for each device, but do not have any service or authorization information. Applicant has submitted amendments to the claim language to clarify the service information.

Applicant contends that the Tate patent does not teach or suggest an interconnection switch as claimed. While Tate may connect a single incoming individual call to one device or may connect a single incoming group call to a group of devices, Tate does not teach or suggest connecting multiple co-pending incoming calls, which overlap in time, for the same single called telephone number to more than one

Serial No. 09/664,479

Art Unit No. 2618

wireless device. The Examiner has stated that he "interprets that multiple incoming calls for the same single telephone number arriving on said telephone wirelines at different times rather than simultaneously (*sic*)". Applicant has amended the language of all of the independent claims to recite connecting multiple co-pending incoming calls for the same single telephone number to more than one device, as it clearly taught in the Specification (e.g., page 6, lines 15-16 and page 7, lines 6-8).

Anticipation under 35 USC 102 is established only when a single prior art reference discloses each and every element of a claimed invention. See: In re Schreiber, 128 F. 3d 1473, 1477, 44 USPQ2d 1429, 1431 (Fed. Cir. 1997); In re Paulsen, 30 F. 3d 1475, 1478-1479, 31 USPQ2d 1671, 1673 (Fed. Cir. 1994); In re Spada, 911 F. 2d 705, 708, 15 USPQ2d 1655, 1657 (Fed. Cir. 1990) and RCA Corp. v. Applied Digital Data Sys., Inc., 730 F. 2d 1440, 1444, 221 USPQ 385, 388 (Fed. Cir. 1984). Since Tate does not teach or suggest all of the claim features, and specifically does not teach storing and using unique service information and does not teach connecting multiple co-pending incoming calls, it

Serial No. 09/664,479

Art Unit No. 2618

cannot be maintained that the claimed invention is anticipated by the Tate patent teachings.

Based on the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claim language, withdrawal of the rejections, and allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,

R. E. Chapman

By: /Anne Vachon Dougherty/
Anne Vachon Dougherty
Registration No. 30,374
Tel. (914) 962-5910